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Message Text

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11
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 /044 W
---------- 105802
R 192154Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1980

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11260

E. O. 11652 : GDS
TAGS : CASC, MX
SUBJ : ECHEVERRIA AND U.S. PRISONERS ISSUE

REF : MEXICO 10691

1. IN THE SERIES OF CABLES COVERING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' VISIT HERE, I FAILED TO WRITE ONE ON THE PRISONER ISSUE. IN ORDER TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT I SHOULD REPORT NOW THAT THIS MATTER WAS INDEED DISCUSSED BETWEEN MR. ROGERS AND MYSELF AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AT THE BREAKFAST. THE PRESIDENT WAS RESPONSIVE. HE OBSERVED THAT WHEN THE NEW JAILS WERE COMPLETED THIS WOULD MAKE FOR GREATER IMPROVEMENT IN THE LOT OF THOSE NOW AT LECUMBERRI AND ELSEWHERE. WE STRESSED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED TO THAT POINT AND SAID WE HOPED THAT SOME MEASURES COULD BE TAKEN SOONER. ECHEVERRIA AGREED IN PRINCIPLE AND CHARGED ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, GUTIERREZ BARRIOS, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE BREAKFAST, TO CONTINUE WORKING CLOSELY WITH US ON THIS MATTER.

2. IN CLOSING I SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF THE MEXICANS WERE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP (IN WHICH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MIGHT BE INCLUDED) ON THE MATTER IN ORDER THAT WE COULD HAVE A MORE CENTRALIZED POINT FOR OUR TALKS AND THAT WE IN TURN WOULD BE HAPPY TO SET UP A SIMILAR GROUP ON THE AMERICAN SIDE.

3. COMMENT : WHILE WE WILL OF COURSE FOLLOWUP ON THIS
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AND WILL RAISE IT WITH RABASA AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, IN

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MANY WAYS THIS "DOUBLE" APPROACH TO THE PRESIDENT, FIRST BY ME (MEXICO 10687) AND THEN BY ROGERS AND ME, HAS IN EFFECT RAISED THE ISSUE TO A HIGHER AND MORE EFFECTIVE LEVEL THAN WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA.
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